THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The Council has already established ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, NRCs and other Regional Stations in the North Eastern States to cater the research needs of the NE States and these are being fulfilled through the existing infrastructure and network of ICAR units.

(c) No, Sir. The Mao Potato Farm, Manipur is primarily a seed farm for multiplication of potato seeds for Eastern Region, like State Seed Farms in different states of the country. One Central Potato Research Institute Regional Station in the Eastern Region at Patna and another for North Eastern Region at Shillong are catering to the research needs of the region. The CPRI is providing all necessary technical support to Mao Potato Farm in potato seed multiplication.

Extension of Intensive Cooperative Development Programme

3260. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government encourage the extenstion of the Intensive Cooperative Development Programme (ICDP) in various States;

(b) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has applied for extension of the ICDP to five additional districts; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government to this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government through National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) has been encouraging the extension of the Intensive Cooperative Development Programmes through the plan scheme known as 'Integrated Cooperative Development Projects (ICDPs)' in various parts of the country.

(b) and (c) As reported by the NCDC, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested for extension of ICDP in 15 additional districts in the State. Andhra Pradesh is one of the major beneficiaries of the scheme of ICDP. Already, 6 ICDPs at a cost of Rs. 51.08 crores have been sanctioned by the NCDC has approved one more project in Guntur District during the year 1993-94 has released assistance for the preparation of a Detailed Project Report (DPR) which is still awaited from the State Government. The ICDPs at Chittoor and Krishna Districts have been logging behind the schedule because of slow implementation of the Project. However, NCDC has extended the validity of these two projects for two years. Besides, the implementation of ICDPs at Nalgonda and Kurnool Districts is not satisfactory. In view of these factors and taking into account the overall availability of resources for this schemes and the need to give a fair share of ICDPs to various parts of the country, NCDC may not be in a position to extend ICDP to more Districts in Andhra Pradesh at this stage.

Energisation action of Pumping Sets

3261. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pumping sets energised till the end of Eights Five Year Plan in various States and how many of them are in operation at present; and

(b) whether Government are aware of the over-exploitation of ground water resources as a result of the energisation of pumping sets, which has resulted in the serious imbalance in soil fertility and environment degradation and if so, the reaction of Government in this regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) As per the Rural Electrification Corp. Ltd. (A Govt. of